

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's first Office Action of December 23, 2005 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

page 1 of the specification has been amended to replace docket numbers with application numbers accordingly.

page 13, line 12, page 14, line 30, page 17, line 18, page 18 line 7 and page 22, line 10 of the present specification are amended to omit reference to Fig. 17C;

Fig. 43 is amended to include the reference sign "500", as is described at page 8, lines 8-20 of the present specification;

independent claim 1 is amended to specify that the claimed printhead assembly has at least two printhead modules, that the support members of the printhead modules are configured to communication the printing fluid with one another, and that the fluid connectors are each connected at one end of a respective printhead module so as to supply the printing fluid to the modules. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page see page 9, line 28-page 11, line 29 of the present specification;

dependent claims 2 and 8 are amended to conform with amended independent claim 1; and

dependent claims 3-7 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2 and 5-8 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by Silverbrook (US 6,916,082), for at least the following reasons.

In the present invention, each printhead module 30 has two or more printhead tiles/integrated circuits 50,51 arranged on a fluid channel member 40. At least two of these printhead modules are longitudinally assembled within a casing 20 to form a pagewidth printhead. Multiple printhead modules, each having multiple printhead tiles, are used in the printhead assembly so that replacement of the modules and selection of printhead length are easily provided without the need to provide individual controllers and connections for each printhead integrated circuit.

Easy connection and operation of the multiple modules is provided by configuring the fluid channel members of the modules to communicate printing fluid with each other across the printhead assembly because this enables supply of the printing fluid from both ends of the assembly via fluid delivery connectors 47,48. By providing the modules in this way, scalability of the printhead assembly is provided without the need to redesign the printing fluid distribution arrangement (see page 9, line 28-page 11, line 29 of the present specification).

On the other hand, Silverbrook discloses an arrangement in which each printhead module 46 has a single printhead chip 186 mounted on a carrier 187 which merely defines an electrical connection zone for the chip. Each carrier is mounted to a channel 62 of the chassis 60 within which is mounted individual ink distribution arrangements 72 for each of the modules, as is clearly illustrated in Fig. 8 of Silverbrook. Each module may be individually removed from the channel and the respective ink distribution arrangement, which Silverbrook teaches provides the modularity of the assembly (see col. 5, lines 7-11 and 47-63, and col. 9, lines 1-12 of Silverbrook).

Thus, Silverbrook does not disclose an arrangement in which the modules have more than one printhead chip and support members which enable communication of ink between the modules, and as such, ink delivery from both ends of the assembly. Furthermore, the disclosure of Silverbrook does not teach or suggest one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosed assembly, because Silverbrook specifically teaches that the modularity is provided by the mounting of the modules into the channel.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-8 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Silverbrook.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of dependent claims 3 and 4 is not taught or suggested by Silverbrook in view of Kishima (US 6,109,737), for at least the following reasons.

Kishima merely discloses a piezoelectric element 33 reciprocating printhead 19 in which the diaphragm 32 for ejecting ink is improved (see col. 15, line 31-col. 16, line 46 of Kishima).

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-8 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Silverbrook either taken alone or in combination with Kishima.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

Applicants:



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Amendments to the Drawings

A corrected Fig. 43 is enclosed.